

18 August 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Lieutenant General Lewis Walt, USMC (Ret.)

WAYNE

1. By prearrangement with [redacted], on 13 August I called on General Walt in the company of Mr. David Martin and Mr. Ben Gilleas. Mr. Martin showed me a copy of his proposed press release, which I thought made very useful points.

2. We discussed the problems of the narcotics trade for some time, and essentially I made only two major points:

a. I mentioned that Air America had indeed terminated certain individuals in the past for personal involvement in the narcotics trade. I pointed out that some of these had been allowed to resign rather than being fired in order to keep the matter quiet. (Mr. Velte was following me with the group, and I mentioned to him that I had made this point to them.)

b. I stated that I wanted to make the assurance from the highest levels of CIA that we had not been in the drug business. I said that from our earliest days we had made sure we were not in any way involved in or assisting the drug trade and that, after it became an American problem, we began to work very vigorously against it. General Walt seemed to appreciate this assurance.

WEC

W. E. Colby
Executive Director-Comptroller

WEC:blp

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